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REPORT NO. FJD-41C

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INFORMATION REPORT

(CONTROLLED AMERICAN SOURCE)

COUNTRY Japan

DATE DISTR. 20 October 1954

SUBJECT Recent Political Developments

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE

NO. OF ENCL. 0
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED Japan, Tokyo

DATE OF

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

INFO. September-October 1954

GRADING OF SOURCE						COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Japanese journalist (B) from another Japanese journalist (F)

- KISHII Nobusuke met with OGATA Taketora on the night of 1 October 1954 and invited OGATA to join the New Party Formation Preparatory Council as the representative of the OGATA faction of the Liberal Party. KISHII proposed as an inducement that OGATA become president of the new party following short intermediary incumbency by HATOVAMA Ichiro. KISHII emphasized the importance of OGATA's help in obtaining a majority for the new party in the House of Representatives. OGATA gently declined the offer stating that it would be improper for a deputy Prime Minister to join an organization planning to overthrow the Premier.¹ During the meeting OGATA also expressed the opinion that YOSHIDA would retire after his return from abroad.
- OGATA's refusal of KISHII's offer widened a split in OGATA's supporters, the majority of whom backed OGATA's refusal to join the New Party Preparatory Council. A minority, however, favor cooperating with KISHII in promoting the candidacy of HATOVAMA on the grounds that the YOSHIDA era is already a thing of the past and will give way to a new era to be dominated either by SHIGELITSU or OGATA.
- SATO Eisaku recently stated the one of the major factors standing in the way of YOSHIDA's retirement in favor of HATOVAMA is that HATOVAMA is too honest and too talkative. He cannot therefore be made aware of all the secret understandings and commitments existing between the U.S. and Japan for which YOSHIDA is responsible.
- Business circles have no confidence in HATOVAMA or in his supporters MIKI Burkichi and KONO Ichiro. It is rumored, however, that business groups would support HATOVAMA as a temporary candidate if assured he would give way to either OGATA, SHIGELITSU, or KISHII.
- The program favored by KISHII and his supporters calls for modification of deflationary measures and opening of trade with the Communist bloc. This program has strong appeal in business, industrial and financial circles. YOSHIDA will have to bring back important commitments from the powers he is visiting if he is to offset the allure of KISHII's pronouncements (opinion). Most prospective members of the new conservative party do not wish to commit themselves before YOSHIDA returns.

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- 1 Source Comment. It may be recalled that the new party movement was started originally by OGATA as an expedient to ward off the threat to the YOSHIDA cabinet resulting from the ship-building scandal. OGATA launched the new party movement to distract the nation's attention from the scandal, intending to use it to consolidate the Liberal Party under the leadership of YOSHIDA.

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